

James Naylor his Psalm of Thanksgiving to God for his Mercies, Published by him after his Fall, 1659.

IT is in my Heart to praise thee, O my God ; let me never forget thee, what thou hast been to me in the Night, by thy Presence in the Day of Trial, when I was beset in Darkness, when I was cast out as a wandering Bird, when I was assaulted with strong Temptations, then thy Presence in Secret did preserve me, and in a low Estate I felt thee near me : When the Floods sought to sweep me away, thou sett'st a Compaſs for them how far they should pass over : When my Way was through the Sea, and when I passed under the Mountains, there waſt thou present with me : When the Weight of the Hills was upon me, thou upheld me, else had I sunk under the Earth. When I was as one altogether helpless, when Tribulation and Anguish was upon me Day and Night, and the Earth without Foundation ; when I went on the Way of Wrath, and paſſed by the Gates of Hell, when all Comforts stood afar off, and he that is mine Enemy had Dominion ; when I was cast into the Pit, and was as one appointed to Death ; when I was between the Mitiſtanes, and as one crushed with the Weight of his Adverſary ; as a Father thou waſt with me, and the Rock of thy Preſence. When the Mouths of Lyons roared againſt me, and Fear took hold on my Soul in the Pit, then I called upon thee in the Night, and my Cries were ſtrong before thee daily, who anſwered me from thy Habitation, and deliveredſt me from thy Dwelling place, ſaying, I will ſet thee above all thy Fears, and lift up thy Feet above the Head of Oppreſſion. I believed, and was strengthned, and thy Word was Salvation. Thou didſt fight on my Part when I wrestled with Death, and when Darkness would have shut me up, then thy Light ſhone about me, and thy Banner was over my Head : When my Work was in the Furnace, and as I paſſed through the Fire by thee I was not consumed, though the Flames ascended above my Head. When I beheld the dreadful Visions, and was amongſt the fiery Spirits, thy Faith stayed me, else through Fear I had fallen. I ſaw thee, and believed, ſo the Enemy could not prevail.

When I look back into thy Works I am aſtoniſhed, and ſee no End of thy Praifes : Glory, Glory to thee, faſh my Soul, and let my Heart be ever filled with Thanksgiving. Whilſt thy Works remain, they ſhall ſhew forth thy Power. Then didſt thou lay the Foundation of the Earth, and leadſt me under the Waters, and in the Deep didſt thou ſhew me Wonders, and the forming of the World. By thy Hand thou leadſt me in Safety, till thou ſhewedſt me the Pillars of the Earth : Then did the Heavens shower down, they were covered with Darkness, and the Powers thereof were shaken, and thy Glory descended : Thou filledſt the lower Parts of the Earth with Gladneſs, and the Springs of the Valleys were opened, and thy Showers descended abundantly, ſo the Earth was filled with Virtue. Thou madeſt thy Plant to ſpring, and the thirſty Soul be-

came as a watred Garden : Then didſt thou lift me out of the Pit, and ſet me forth in the Sight of my Enemies. Thou proclaimedſt Liberty to the Captive, and calleſt mine Acquaintance near me : They to whom I had been a Wonder, looked upon me, and in thy Love I obtained Favour in those who had forſook me. Then did Gladneſs swallow up Sorrow, and I forſook all my Troubles ; and I ſaid, how good is it that Man be proved in the Night, that he may know his Folly, that every Mouth may become ſilent in thy Hand, until thou makeſt Man known to himſelf, and haſt slain the Boaster, and ſhewed him the Vanity that vexeth thy Spirit.

J. N A Y L O R.

About two Hours before his Death he ſpoke in the Presence of ſeveral Witneſſes, these Words ;

TH E R E is a Spirit which I feel, that delights to do no Evil, nor to revenge any Wrong, but delights to endure all Things, in hope to enjoy its own in the End : Its Hope is to out-live all Wrath and Contention, and to weary out all Exaltation and Cruelty, or what-ever is of a Nature contrary to it ſelf. It ſees to the End of all Temptations : As it bears no Evil in it ſelf, ſo it conceives none in Thoughts to any other : If it be betray'd it bears it, for its Ground and Spring is the Mercies and For-givenefs of God : Its Crown is Meekneſs, its Life is everlasting Love unfeigned, and takes its Kingdom with Entreaty, and not with Contention, and keeps it by Lowlineſs of Mind : In God alone it can rejoice, though none else regard it, or can own its Life : It's conceived in Sorrow, and brought forth without any to pity it ; nor doth it murmur at Grief and Oppreſſion : It never rejoyceth but through Sufferings ; for with the World's Joy it is murdered : I found it alone, being forſaken : I have Fellowship therein with them who have lived in Dens and desolate Places in the Earth, who through Death obtain'd this Resurrection and eternal holy Life.